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**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF, AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR,
THE UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR BOLIVIA**

Report of the Executive Director

I. BACKGROUND

1. UNFPA requests that the programme of assistance for Bolivia be extended by one year until the end of 1996, in order to harmonize the programming cycle with that of UNDP. The Fund also requests that the approval authority be increased by \$2 million to cover the additional year. The programme would thus total \$12 million for the period 1991-1996, \$11 million of which would be programmed from UNFPA's regular resources.

2. In June 1991, the Governing Council approved the first UNFPA country programme for Bolivia, a UNFPA priority country, in the amount of \$10 million, \$5.5 million of which was to be provided from UNFPA regular resources over a five-year period (1991-1995). Of the \$4.5 million that was sought from multi-bilateral sources, a total of \$700,000 was obtained from the Government of Sweden and a private German organization. Given that Bolivia is a UNFPA priority country and that the bulk of resources were needed in the core priority area of reproductive health, UNFPA opted to fund the remaining amount from its regular resources. Approximately \$8.5 million of the total programme amount will be expended by the end of 1995. Of the proposed additional \$2 million, \$1.7 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources and \$300,000 would be sought from other sources.

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3. The increased funding authority is needed to consolidate the programme's achievements to date, i.e., ensure continuity of the National Health Secretariat's drive to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity and the National Education Secretariat's commitment to incorporate population education into its education reform programmes; and support development of adolescent reproductive health-related activities. A programme review and strategy development (PRSD) exercise will be carried out to prepare a new programme of assistance starting in 1997 in close coordination with other donors, especially the other organizations of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP).

4. The programme extension has been prepared in the framework of the Country Strategy Note and reflects the Government's priorities. The extension takes into consideration the results of the country programme evaluation of 1995. That evaluation found UNFPA assistance had helped increase understanding and application of the concept of reproductive health, including greater coverage by reproductive health services; promoted awareness and discussion of population issues; and increased the availability of reliable population and health data. These results were obtained mainly by effective support for the National Health and Education Secretariats and the National Institute of Statistics. The 1995 evaluation recommended that UNFPA consolidate achievements in the areas of reproductive health and information, education and communication (IEC), concentrating mainly on support to the National Health and National Education Secretariats. The evaluation also recommended strengthening programme monitoring.

5. The proposed programme activities take into consideration the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). While the programme originally accommodated funds for five sectors and a programme reserve, this request is presented according to the new UNFPA emphasis on three core areas: reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health (hereafter referred to as reproductive health); population and development strategies; and advocacy. Special attention would be given in all three areas to the development of national capacity and to the sustainability of programme activities.

II. STATUS OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

6. Based on priorities identified by the Government and the recommendations of the 1990 PRSD mission, the first UNFPA programme identified five sectors for support. Of these, major activities have been implemented under three: maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP); IEC; and data collection and analysis. No activities were undertaken in the area of population policy formulation, and only limited activities were undertaken in the area of population dynamics. Activities in the area of women, population and development were approved only in mid-1995.

Reproductive health

7. The first programme had the following sectoral aims in the area of reproductive health: (a) extend coverage of MCH/FP services, focusing on selected target groups; (b) improve the quality of these services; (c) strengthen institutional, operational and managerial capacity at the local level; and (d) increase understanding of sexual and reproductive behaviour through education, addressing such issues as reproductive health, family life education and HIV/AIDS.

8. UNFPA's assistance in this area has focused largely on supporting the reproductive health approach being applied by the National Health Secretariat and on the reproductive health services that it is offering. UNFPA assistance also contributed to the preparation of the national plan for accelerated reduction of maternal, perinatal and child mortality; an increase in the coverage of services provided for prenatal care, deliveries and family planning; the training of health personnel in reproductive health; and the strengthening of reproductive health contents in the curricula of medical and nursing schools.

9. Under the proposed extension, UNFPA's support would be provided to help the National Health Secretariat continue to improve reproductive health services and to extend current coverage of those services, with special attention being given to: (a) advocacy in favour of reproductive health at the central and municipal levels, including further decentralization of activities to the municipal level; (b) strengthening reproductive health-related IEC activities with the assistance of the Country Support Team (CST) based in Santiago, Chile; (c) making the programme more responsive to the country's sociocultural diversity and increasing community participation in service delivery; (d) further developing training activities and appropriate mechanisms to evaluate the results and impact of programme activities and to supervise work performance. Moreover, with UNFPA's assistance, the National Health Secretariat would develop selected pilot activities related to reproductive health services for adolescents.

10. UNFPA would also continue to support other selected activities in reproductive health, including an adolescents' sex education project. Implementation would be closely coordinated with the technical participation of the National Health Secretariat. Further technical support in the area of IEC would be provided by the National Education Secretariat. All UNFPA assistance would be provided in the context and in accordance with the ongoing changes in the health sector, especially the decentralization process and the promotion of community participation.

11. A total funding authority of \$6.8 million would be needed for 1991-1996 for reproductive health, an increase of \$2.7 million in the original amount approved by the Governing Council. Of this amount, the aim would be to mobilize \$300,000 from multi-bilateral resources. Under the programme approved by the Governing Council, the area of MCH/FP received 41 per cent of the

total spending authority. With this extension, the area of reproductive health would receive 57 per cent of the total spending authority of the programme

Population and development strategies

12. Owing to institutional changes in the Government, UNFPA has provided only limited support for the formulation of a comprehensive population policy under the current programme, even though it was a long-term aim of the programme. However, population concerns have been advocated at the policy-making level within the new Government. Government interest in population and reproductive health issues as well as in women's empowerment is reflected in the national Declaration of Principles on Population and Sustainable Development endorsed by the President of Bolivia for the ICPD.

13. The Government has expressed interest in strengthening the incorporation of population concerns in the different development programmes and in restructuring the coordination mechanisms for population programmes. In 1996, UNFPA would provide technical assistance to the Government in this area as part of the PRSD exercise, through the CST and through the assistance provided by programme support staff. The latter would also assist in developing national mechanisms to follow up and monitor implementation of ICPD recommendations, as well as those of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development.

14. UNFPA's support in the area of data collection and analysis and population dynamics has been concentrated mainly on the 1992 population census, as well as the subsequent analysis of census data. This analysis would continue under the programme extension. UNFPA also contributed to the national demographic and health survey. With UNFPA's assistance, the population census provided socio-demographic information that has been used by the Government for the implementation of its new policies. Results obtained from the national demographic and health survey have allowed the comparison of health indicators with the results of 1989. For the first time, the survey included a module on maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS.

15. UNFPA would also continue supporting the improvement of the civil registration system for the inclusion of undocumented sectors of the population in order to help rural and urban marginal populations, especially women, benefit from the decentralization currently being promoted through government reforms and programmes.

16. UNFPA's support for a national youth survey to be undertaken by the National Secretariat of Ethnic, Gender and Generational Affairs would concentrate on reproductive health concerns. Given the Fund's limited financial resources, UNFPA would also seek participation by other donors as well as the collaboration of related national institutions. The survey would provide important baseline information for the development of adolescent services programmes, an area that is gaining increasing attention among different government institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

17. The total amount needed for the area of population and development strategies for 1991-1996 is \$2.7 million, \$400,000 less than the amount originally approved for data collection and analysis and population policy formulation when the programme was first approved. Of the total, \$700,000 would come from multi-bilateral sources, \$800,000 less than what was originally envisaged. It would include funding for one programme support staff.

Advocacy

18. The programme approved by the Governing Council included an important advocacy component aiming at increasing the understanding of the relevance of population changes through an overall IEC strategy. The programme also aimed to: (a) assist the national authorities in incorporating population contents in the design of the curriculum for primary education in connection with educational reforms; (b) incorporate population topics in the national literacy campaign; (c) establish a network of population documentation centres; and (d) design and implement population education programmes addressing cultural features and behaviours of the different ethnic groups in Bolivia.

19. UNFPA's support for IEC activities has contributed to an increased awareness and understanding of the importance of population issues at all levels. UNFPA's assistance has concentrated mainly on the National Education Secretariat, which has started to incorporate population issues in its programme of education reform. Activities have benefited teachers from the formal and non-formal sectors and journalists from the mass media; assisted in incorporating population education in the curricula; helped establish a documentation centre; and contributed to the design and implementation of programmes addressing cultural differences. Programme goals in relation to the national literacy campaign are no longer relevant since the campaign has been discontinued by the Government.

20. In 1996, UNFPA would continue its support for the National Education Secretariat's efforts to incorporate population education in primary-level curricula and school texts, training of facilitators and pedagogic advisers responsible for implementing education reform, and the inclusion of population education in teacher training institutions.

21. In the area of non-formal education, with UNFPA's support, the National Secretariat of Education would continue training non-formal instructors and communicators (including NGOs and grassroots organizations, community leaders, health personnel, rural promoters and social communicators) and the preparation and production of related materials and radio programmes. Activities in the National Education Secretariat would have an important role in providing technical support to other aspects of the programme as well, especially reproductive health activities with IEC components. The Secretariat would have a coordinating role in this area to ensure complementarity of activities.

22. In 1996, UNFPA would promote and support population advocacy efforts by different national institutions, especially those of the national counterparts of UNFPA-supported activities.

This would be done with the help of the CST, programme support staff and the UNFPA-supported IEC project in the National Education Secretariat. Transfer of technical capacity to the national counterparts in this area would ensure sustainability of the activities.

23. Moreover, UNFPA would continue providing support to the National Secretariat of Ethnic, Gender and Generational Affairs for the promotion of women's empowerment and women's reproductive rights, as well as to indigenous organizations for women's reproductive health education while ensuring appropriate project coordination mechanisms with the National Education and Health Secretariats.

24. A total funding authority of \$2.5 million from UNFPA regular resources would be needed in the area of advocacy, including funding for one programme support staff.

Programme coordination and monitoring and evaluation

25. UNFPA assistance is being coordinated by the Directorate of International Cooperation and Funding of the Ministry of Finance. The National Health and Education Secretariats would ensure technical coordination and complementarity of all programme activities related to reproductive health and IEC.

Financial summary

26. As indicated in paragraph 1, UNFPA proposes to extend the Bolivia country programme through 1996 and to increase the funding approval authority by \$2 million. The programme would thus total \$12 million for the period of 1991-1996, of which \$11 million would be programmed from UNFPA regular resources and \$1 million from a combination of UNFPA regular resources and multi-bilateral resources, when and to the extent such additional resources become available. The following table shows how that amount would be accommodated by programme area.

Sector as approved by Governing Council	Resource distribution as approved by the Governing Council 1991		New sectors	Resource distribution in new sectors (\$)	Proposed increased funding approval authority for 1996		Total (\$)
	Regular resources (\$)	Other resources (\$)			Regular resources (\$)	Other resources (\$)	
MCH/FP	2,500,000	1,600,000	Reproductive health	4,100,000	2,400,000	300,000	6,800,000
IEC	700,000	900,000	Advocacy	2,600,000	(100,000)	-	2,500,000
Women, population & development	500,000	500,000					
Population policy formulation	600,000	600,000	Population & development strategies	3,100,000	400,000	(800,000)	2,700,000
Data collection and analysis	1,000,000	900,000					
Programme reserve	200,000	-		200,000	(200,000)	-	-
Total	5,500,000	4,500,000		10,000,000	2,500,000	(500,000)	12,000,000

III. RECOMMENDATION

27. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the extension of the Bolivia country programme by one year and its increased funding authority by \$2 million as detailed in the above table, subject to the availability of resources, and authorize the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for its management, funding and execution.
